

We know what happens in this body, and we see it time after time after time after time. We hear it time after time after time. We hear that deafening sound of silence from our colleagues.

We have got to stand up and expose these things when they are inequities, and I commend my colleague from California for bringing this opportunity for us to make the statement in the interest of fairness because we will come back here after the break in this body, and I am sure we will not hear that deafening sound of silence from our colleagues come time to talk about affirmative action and things that may have some benefit to the minority community, but we certainly hear that deafening sound today.

I yield back to the gentleman from California and thank him again for sponsoring this special order today.

□ 1645

Mr. DIXON. I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his contribution.

Mr. Speaker, just let me summarize what has occurred here over the past few months. I have served in this House for 18 years. I have not served on the Committee on Ways and Means, but I have served on the Committee on Appropriations. I have an idea of the conversations that went on.

This House wanted to participate in a program to allow people who were self-employed to deduct up to 25 percent of their medical insurance. We also at the same time had to find offsets for that money. It was going to cost \$2.3 billion. Somebody ran in the room with an article from a newspaper and said, "Did you know that an African-American is going to participate in a deal, and the taxes on that deal to Viacom, the selling company, are going to be deferred?"

Someone else said, "What is wrong with that?"

"Well, there are abuses in the program."

"Well, let's address the abuses."

The gentleman from Washington [Mr. McDERMOTT] and the gentleman from Florida [Mr. GIBBONS] presented an amendment on this floor to address those abuses. But there were other voices in the room that said, "But we need the money to offset the loss of revenue to the Treasury for the \$2.3 billion." So we called in witnesses. Mr. Kinard from the FCC said, "This is not a set-aside. It is not a quota. It is something that we have done because of good public policy, and we have been using this certificate for other things since about 1948."

"But we need to offset. We need to find the money."

Someone else came forward and said, "do not anticipate this kind of revenue, because, yes, the tax certificate is used, but people will either not sell or find some other tax structure to avoid it."

"But we need the revenue."

This bill comes to this floor, and the representation is made that we have

got to kill this Viacom deal. The policy is wrong, it is abused, let us correct it. No.

Well, then, let us move forward, because when we kill this program, you see, it is going to produce \$1.3 billion.

Wrong again. Mr. Speaker, 831 did three things: It eliminated what I believe in my heart was a good program, that encouraged entrepreneurship in broadcast industries; it provided no tax revenue to the Treasury; and TCI, the largest cable company in the country, just got a little bit bigger.

So there is no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that this is not a colorblind society. There is no doubt in my mind that it is not a colorblind society. But when you look at the totality, you cannot expect minorities and women to understand why it is good for the majority in this country to take advantage of a tax deferral, but not good for a minority.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1289 AND H.R. 2062

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1289 and H.R. 2062.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF THE REMAKING OF AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, we have just concluded the debate and the vote on the appropriations bill for the Education, Labor, and Human Services portion of the budget. We have almost concluded the entire appropriations process. The big one left, of course, is the Department of Defense. This process moves us a little further along the road toward the remaking of America.

Speaker GINGRICH and the Republican majority have said they intend to remake America. Speaker GINGRICH also says that politics is war without blood. So we have concluded the first phase of the war. The Contract With America with just a warm-up. The budget and appropriations process really opened the blitzkrieg. The first phase of the blitzkrieg is about to come to an end.

I think it is important to take this time to note that it has been devastating indeed. The people of America, the caring majority, the majority of the people in America, have been the victims of the beginning of this scorched Earth policy. Tremendous cuts have been made already, and this is just the first year in the effort to balance the budget in a 7-year period. This is the easiest one.

These cuts will escalate greatly over the next few years. So whatever has begun today, as horrible as it may be, is only the beginning. It is very important that the American people understand that this is only the beginning, and \$9 billion was cut from the Health and Human Services and Education and Labor budget, \$9 billion for the budget year that begins October 1 1995 and goes to September 30, 1996.

If \$9 billion was cut in this first round, you can imagine how much more will have to be cut and will be cut in the second round, the next budget year, because the budget for this year still leaves the Republicans, who are controlling the process now, with a deficit of \$170 billion, the House-Senate budget that concluded, under which we are laboring with respect to the appropriations now. That budget still left us with a deficit in 1996 of \$170 billion. Over the next 7 years, that deficit will go down from \$170 billion to a surplus of \$614 billion in the year 2002.

In order to get that deficit down and end up with a surplus in the year 2002, drastic additional cuts have to be made. So it is important to understand where we are in the process of the remaking of America, in the process of this war without blood.

Speaker GINGRICH says that politics is war without blood, but he did not say it was without pain and he did not say it was without suffering. And there is a lot of blood, too. I think it is very important to note that in the process of making budget cuts in the appropriations process, the Committee on Appropriations went far beyond its jurisdiction, and they did a lot of legislating, against the rules; they violated the rules. This majority violates the rules whenever they see fit, and they have the same kind of contempt for rules that dictators and tyrants have. Rules are just to be played with the bourgeoisie and the folks who believe in little words on pieces of paper. They violate them when they get ready.

So a massive violation of the rules occurred in this appropriations process with respect to the Labor, Education, and Human Services appropriation. They had a large number of legislative matters introduced into the process. One of those matters related to the enforcement of health and safety standards on jobs by OSHA, the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

One of those legislated items cut the effectiveness of OSHA by one-third. By cutting the budget by one-third and specifically saying that the cuts have to apply to the enforcement process, OSHA's enforcement administration, enforcement process, the people in charge of enforcing the rules and regulations on health and safety, they could not spend but two-thirds of their last year's budget. They are cut by one-third.

That is going to cause not just pain and suffering, but there will be some bleeding and dying, because last year